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SUMMARY OF NATIONAL PAPER*

The aims and tasks of the science policy result in Poland from general principles of social and economic policy. The development of science and technology must meet the present and future needs of society in the domains of economy, culture, education and living conditions. The increase of input and effectiveness of science and technology in the economic and social development of the country is achieved through their harmonious development in three fundamental domains of scientific activity:

- cognition and culture forming (satisfaction of the society's intellectual aspirations, consolidation of the position of Polish science in the world, formation of science workers);

- technology and construction (fundamental changes in production and methods of manufacturing);

- satisfaction of the current production needs.

The realization of aims and tasks of the science policy is accompanied by endeavours to exploit rationally and fully the existing research potential and to develop intensively certain spheres of special importance for the social and economic policy of Poland, according to the principle of selective development.

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* The designations employed, the presentation of material and the views expressed in this paper are those of the Government of the Polish People's Republic and do not necessarily reflect the practices and views of the Secretariat of the United Nations in any of these respects.

Rational utilization of the potential is ensured by partial deconcentration of the system of science and development centres in Poland. They fall into three categories:

- units of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
- units of the ministries and other central offices,
- higher schools.

On behalf of the Government the responsibility for science and technology development is held by the Minister of Science, Higher Education and Technology, who is the principle administrative organ accountable for science and technology policy of the State.

Government activity in the realm of that policy is checked by Sejm (Parliament), which has a Standing Committee for Science and Technological Progress. The Committee evaluates the administrative aspect of science and technology development, examines long- and short-term plans, evaluates their realization, presents desiderata and conclusions to the Government. Members of the Committee also inspect scientific centres, analyse selected research and development programmes, estimate the employment of science workers, and examine the equipment. There are also other Sejm committees concerned with problems of science and technology. These matters are reviewed on plenary sessions of the Sejm and when annual and long-term plans of economic and social development are approved.

The deconcentration of research centres enables their co-operation with economic and cultural institutions. The selective activity permits objective planning, organization, financing and supervision of research, in conformity with priorities established at respective levels of management: State, ministry, economic region or industrial branch. Objective financing covers today 90 per cent of the total apportionment for research and development, about one third of the means being spent on government and key programmes of high priority. These programmes constitute a part of the system of organization and co-ordination of science and technology works, based on priority hierarchy, which has been functioning in Poland for seven years.

The most important are the government research and development programmes (7), which are under direct care and supervision of the Government. Second in the hierarchy are the key problems (67). Besides there are 60 interdepartmental problems of basic research steered at central level and realized by the Polish Academy of Sciences and higher schools. Ministries and central offices administer departmental-branch problems (about 500 in years 1976-1980).

The above-described system is based on matrix-like macrostructure of organization and management of scientific research and technological development in the Polish People's Republic. It serves the establishment of rational links between the research carried out by the polish Academy of Sciences, higher schools, and branch institutes and the current and future needs of the country. It represents a concurrence of self-dependence and self-inspection of scientific institutions with their function in the national economy and culture.

The basic advantage of such a system is the actual integration of teams working in various scientific and technical disciplines over the borders of formal assignment.

The existing system of organization and co-ordination of science, research and implementation works permits the realization of the main trends of science and technology development through 1980. The three superior aims of science and technology are the following:

- comprehensive development, increased production effectiveness achievement of competitiveness of the entire national economy in the world markets,

- basic improvement of working and living conditions for citizens,

- more competent and effective work in research and development centres.

The present level of economy, science and technology in Poland permits an increase in its participation in the international division of labour. There have been created favourable conditions for absorption of technologies from high-developed countries by the national economy. On the other hand there are broader opportunities to exchange the technical and technological thought. It would be profitable for Poland and other countries to carry out joint international programmes in the domains explored and developed by Poland to a high degree, like exploitation and processing of raw materials, industrial building, shipbuilding, electronic industry, automation of production, material engineering, production technology, animal breeding, cereal cultivation, and others.

It would be also worth while to extend other forms of international co-operation and to intensify the formation of scientists and specialists from the developing countries in Poland, both in various fields of science and technology and in methods of the organization of that activity.

Poland belongs to the countries which particularly support the widest possible scientific and technological co-operation, especially within international co-operation. The co-operation should:

(a) lead to the development and consolidation of peace among all the States,

(b) respect entirely the sovereignty of all participant States,

(c) guarantee equal rights to all the participant States without discrimination due to political or other reasons,

(d) be based on the principle of mutual advantages for all the States,

(e) lead to economic, social and cultural development of all the States, including the developing countries,

(f) lead to a better international division of labour in respect of the production increase in industry and agriculture, at the world-wide, regional and subregional levels, as well as in bilateral co-operation,

(g) promote the development of human and material resources of all the participant States, including also developing countries,

(h) enable the broadest possible expansion of international trade,

(i) improve the standard of living in all countries, including the developing ones,

(j) protect the human work and living environment,

(k) support the realization of progressive social reforms and just division of the national income,

(l) strengthen the further progressive and comprehensive development of civilization, learning and culture, and particularly of science and technology,

(m) stimulate basic, applied and developmental research, enriching its variety of forms.